

RESOLUTION NO. 12-326

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville are apprised that Betty Kelly Austin, Director of Athletics at Alabama A & M University, retired February of 2012 after more than 35 years of dedicated service to the sports program, an outstanding career in volleyball, basketball, development of the student-athlete academic resource center and opening of a new sports medicine treatment facility, among other achievements, during her tenure; and,

**WHEREAS**, Betty is a native of Huntsville and a graduate of Buckhorn High School. She graduated Alabama A & M University in 1974, and received a master's degree in physical education from the University of Michigan in 1975; and,

**WHEREAS**, she served a lengthy stint as one of the top volleyball coaches in the country, finishing with over 600 career victories. Coach Austin's teams won six straight Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) volleyball titles from 2000-2005, and 11 more Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) titles in her 30 years as head coach. She was named SWAC Coach of the Year in each of her six championship seasons. She retired from her coaching duties following the 2006 season, ending her volleyball career with a 603-235 record; and,

**WHEREAS**, Betty also served as the head women's basketball coach at Alabama A&M during the 1977-1978 and 1981-1982 seasons; and,

**WHEREAS**, she became Director of Athletics at Alabama A & M University in March 2007. Since the beginning, she continued to strengthened the athletic program's systems and processes, including filing and meeting all NCAA regulations and reporting guidelines. She personally increased revenue generation for the athletic programs and implemented a plan to increase use of the Louis Crews Stadium to include special group nights at each of the home football games. Events at Louis Crews Stadium under her tenure included a FIFA international soccer match, the Alabama High School Football All-Star Game, home to the Alabama Renegades women's football team and the Huntsville Black Arts Festival, to name a few. Renovations to Elmore Gymnasium were completed to include new reserved seating in the arena's lower level; and,

**WHEREAS**, the administration and staff of the Department of Athletics espouses a student-centered philosophy, which ranks academic achievement as the number one priority for its student-athletes. Toward this end, Betty Kelly Austin was committed to providing a comprehensive and inclusive intercollegiate and intramural athletics program for men and women, which further promotes the academic, sportsmanship and total development of the student-athletes. The Department is further committed to working cooperatively with other constituents of the University to ensure the production of competent

RESOLUTION NO. 12-326

April 26, 2012

Page 2

and ethical contributing graduates who are capable of making the transition from university life to the workplace and into today's multicultural society. The University is further committed to a program of staff development in providing minorities the opportunity for full employment and development in the athletics program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, do hereby recognize Betty Kelly Austin for her dedication and many stellar achievements during her career as coach of both basketball and volleyball and Director of Athletics at Alabama A & M University for more than 35 years. We extend every good wish for an enjoyable retirement and the very best in all future endeavors.

**ADOPTED** this the 26th day of April, 2012.

---

President of the City Council of the  
City of Huntsville, Alabama

**APPROVED** this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2012.

---

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama